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*Source*  
NSA/2 - 58 - 208

20 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: CI/Liaison, [ ]

ATTENTION : [ ]

SUBJECT : Possible Utilization of Agency Asset Tschurin Soobakov  
by the Federal Bureau of Investigation

1. Subject, Tschurin Soobakov of 44 North Third Street, Paterson, New Jersey, has been an asset of this Agency since approximately 1952, and has been on our payroll since then except for a brief period in 1955.

2. Subject was first recruited and utilized in several capacities by NSA's [ ] Station during the period 1952 - 1954. In 1955, he immigrated to the United States and was subsequently picked up by another component of the Agency (SR Division) for training in a hot-war reserve program. Since then he has been in a reserve status except for the period October - December 1957 when he was on a TDY mission overseas on behalf of NSA. He is still in SR's reserve cadre of assets of potential value in a future hot-war situation.

3. During the past few months, Subject has furnished to his NSA case officer [ ] NSA/2/Jordan) the identities of two Circassians presently in the United States who plan to repatriate to the USSR in the near future. The leads were immediately referred to [ ] and [ ] of SR Division for their possible interest. SR Division is not in a position to investigate or exploit these leads, but has no objection to their being referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, particularly since in at least one of the cases Soobakov has indicated a suspicion that the repatriates in question may be in contact with a Soviet mechanism here in this country. Soobakov has suggested that we might be interested in attempting to a) determine whether there is any Soviet connection, and b) forestall these repatriates from influencing other Circassians to repatriate. NSA is unable to comment on the possible validity of these ideas but feel the FBI may wish to investigate further.

4. Neither NSA nor SR perceives any objection to the FBI's contacting, debriefing, and/or using Soobakov for its own purposes. Both Divisions would like to be kept generally informed, however. We would be very interested in hearing a) The FBI's assessment of Soobakov's operational ability, b) the validity of his leads and ideas, c) whether or not he proves to be of value to the Bureau, and d) whether they wish to establish a formal paid relationship with him. In connection with the latter point, [ ] of SR/DOB, (which is the office of primary interest) has stated his intention to keep Soobakov in DOB's hot-war reserve

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order unless and until the FBI indicates an active continuing interest in him. In the latter instance, DOB will be willing to release him.

5. It is believed that all offices concerned will agree that Sobchakov should not be referred to the FBI as a "hot" asset, but simply as one which may have something to offer, and which we are willing to release to the FBI if it is interested.

6. We suggest that as a first step the FBI may wish simply to have one of its officers debrief Sobchakov for the purpose of forming some tentative opinion of the man and his possible value.

7. Because of his position in the Circassian Emigre community in this country, Sobchakov will certainly insist on any contact between himself and the FBI being completely clandestine. We are reasonably certain that he would be willing to come to Washington and be introduced to an FBI representative by [ ] a. Alternatively [ ] we may pass a contact plan to Sobchakov by phone, if the FBI prefers to contact him somewhere in the New York metropolitan area. For purposes of establishing rapport and confidence at the outset, the contact should be arranged through [ ] rather than in a cold approach.

Chief  
Division of Near East  
and Africa

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